

## GHANA POLICE BRUTALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: INVESTIGATE THESE POLICE OFFICERS



An Africa non-governmental media organization based in the United States, PREKESE Ghana Media has called on the government to investigate alleged cases of police abuse and brutality against law-abiding tax paying citizens of Ghana to help restore public confidence in services and operations of the Ghana Police Service.

This call was made in New York by the International Relations Consultant, Dr. Harold Daniels near the United Nations office following an alleged report of a suspected police abuse and bribery scandal that rocked Odorkor, a suburb of Accra, yesterday.

In a report filed by the PREKESE Ghana Media reporter, Prince Afotey Laryea, a group of uniformed policemen last night stormed Odorkor Official Town-right in front of BONE BEN to effect the arrest of a young man suspected of being a member of SAKAWA syndicate (Internet fraud activity). The officials who arrived in a police jeep with registration number GP 3056, were to arrest the young man suspected to be in his 20s driving an Infinity car with a custom number plate, KWASI BONGO.

In the operations that caused hours of vehicular traffic, the police had the impunity to ask Prince and another observer to leave the suspected crime scene and go to their home,s denying tax paying citizens their right to observe and to offer assistance to a citizen if needed. It was close to 12 midnight. So Prince and the other observer suspected that it might be armed robbery, so their choice to stay and watch was to offer any reasonable assistance if needed, however by their hasten and threatening warnings to eye-witnesses it made the public suspect some clandestine activity to be going on-i.e bribery going to take place hence the police request that they leave in order not to see anything.

After harassing this young man without any evidence of vices, one of the policemen took his car keys, sat in the car and drove to park well as they were now causing vehicular traffic. 20 minutes on, about 2 or 3 of them sat in his car, with his girl friend, asked him to drive to the Odorkor M.T.T.U. They had also arrested another taxi driver who had no updated documents.

This morning, it's being alleged that the police took 250 Ghana cedis was taken as "solidarity" from the innocent young man to kill the suspected case. It is rumoured that the young man in his frustrations from the alleged abuse, attempted to bribe the police officers with 80 GH c which was rejected. One of the policemen retorted and I quote:" small boy, Hw3 car wo da mu", meaning small boy, look at the car you drive.

Hello Ghana, are we safe?

Are the Police our security protectors?

Why would the Police drive law-abiding citizens away from being witnesses to a live case?

Do citizens have a right to information in Ghana?

Do the Police have the legal right to drive suspect's car?

Should officers on duty prejudice an alleged investigation with personal opinions?

Is every person in police uniform a police officer at a time that many armed robbery cases are rampant in Ghana and especially looking at the time of the operation?

Ghana belongs to all of us and we need a cordial and respectable relationship between our Police Force and the Populace all the time. This is why a proper investigation and sharing of the reports on the findings on this case will help increase public confidence in our security forces ability to protect us and to be objective enforces of our laws. Many cases of police abuse of the law and brutality on innocent citizens have gone un-reported because the people were denied their rights to know power or had nobody with an idea on how to become community journalists. The world is changing via technology, this is why we are calling on all citizens to be alert and to take notes and photos and submit them to the news media when they see a crime or brutality in action, we have to work together, support the government in whatever way to make sure citizens obey the law.

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